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Amdt. dated June 7, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 7, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A computerized product delivery method for ensuring a delivery of a product to a delivery destination within a predetermined delivery time period, the computerized delivery method utilizing an alternate product supplier and comprising the steps of:

    receiving a delivery order from a customer, the delivery order containing product information, delivery location and delivery time information;

    processing the received delivery order, by recording the information contained in the delivery order in a product delivery database, scheduling the received order with a product supplier, and selecting a shipping and handling entity to ship the product;

    generating a delivery route for the processed order;

    tracking the shipped order along a delivery route to assess the progress of the shipment to the delivery destination;

    implementing an alternative delivery program, if said order tracking indicates that the shipped order will not reach the delivery destination within the predetermined delivery time as specified in the client delivery order, said alternative delivery program comprising contacting an alternative product supplier;

    providing the alternative supplier with the order containing product information, delivery location and delivery time information for shipping of the product from the alternative supplier to the delivery destination; and

    generating an alternate delivery destination for the original customer order, the alternative destination being a destination of a received order from a second customer, the second order being substantially the same as the first order or the location from which the customer order originated.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously presented) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said shipping step further comprises determining a delivery route for the product, the delivery route containing checkpoints for tracking the product during delivery.

Claim 4 (Currently amended) The method as described in claim 3 wherein said checkpoints are ~~be~~ geographic points along the physical delivery route or time checkpoints at designated times during the delivery.

Claim 5 (Original) The method as described in claim 4 wherein said tracking step further comprises the steps of: monitoring the checkpoints to determine the progress of the delivery; calculating a revised delivery time based on the progress of the delivery; and determining whether the predetermined product delivery time can be achieved based on the calculated and revised delivery time.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Previously presented) A computerized product delivery method for tracking the delivery of a product to a designated destination within a predetermined delivery time, the computerized delivery method utilizing an alternate product supplier and comprising the steps of:

receiving a delivery order from a customer, the delivery order containing information, which includes product information, product delivery location and product delivery time information;

supplying a product and product information to a shipping and handling entity;

determining a delivery route for the product, the delivery route containing product handover points along the route for the product;

recording the transfer of the product order from the product supplier to the shipping and handling entity;

tracking the shipped order along a delivery route based on elapsed time to assess the progress of the shipment to the delivery destination; and

implementing an alternative delivery program, if said order tracking indicates that the shipped order will not reach the delivery destination within the predetermined delivery time as specified in the client delivery order, said alternative delivery program comprising contacting an alternative product supplier; providing the alternative supplier with the order containing product information, delivery location and delivery time information for shipping of the product from the alternative supplier to the delivery destination; and

generating an alternate delivery destination for the original customer order, the alternative destination being a destination of a received order from a second customer, the second order being substantially the same as the first order or the location from which the customer order originated.

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Claim 13 (Previously presented) The method as described in claim 12 further comprising after said transfer recording step, the step of informing the customer from whom the order was received of the transfer of the order from the supplier to the shipping and handling entity.

Claim 14 (Original) The method as described in claim 12 wherein said recording step comprises entering the time of the transfer of the product from the supplier to the shipping and handling entity in a business tracking database.

Claim 15 (Original) The method as described in claim 12 wherein said tracking step comprises for each exchange of the product order from one shipping and handling to another shipping handling entity, recording the time of the exchange and the names of the shipping and handling entities involved in the exchange.

Claim 16 (Original) The method as described in claim 15 wherein said tracking step further comprises establishing a critical time during the delivery process and determining at each shipping and handling exchange whether the delivery process has passed the critical time.

Claim 17 (Original) The method as described in claim 16 further comprising at each shipping and handling exchange determining whether a delivery will reach the designated destination in the predetermined delivery time based on the location and time of a particular exchange.

Claim 18 (Original) The method as described in claim 17 further comprising when there is a determination that the product will reach the designated destination, the steps of: determining whether product has reached the predetermined destination; and delivering the product when product has reached the predetermined destination.

Claim 19 (Canceled)

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Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Currently amended) A computer program product recorded in a computer readable medium and capable of execution by a computer, the product ensuring a delivery of a product to a delivery destination within a predetermined delivery time period, computer program product utilizing an alternate product supplier and comprising:

instructions for receiving a delivery order from a customer, the delivery order containing product information, delivery location and delivery time information;

instructions for processing the received delivery order, by recording the information contained in the delivery order in a product delivery database, scheduling the received order with a product supplier, and selecting a shipping and handling entity to ship the product;;

instructions for generating a delivery route for the processed order;

instructions for tracking the shipped order along a delivery route to assess the progress of the shipment to the delivery destination;

instructions for implementing an alternative delivery program, if said order tracking indicates that the shipped order will not reach the delivery destination within the predetermined delivery time as specified in the client delivery order, said alternative delivery program comprising contacting an alternative product supplier; providing the alternative supplier with the order containing product information, delivery location and delivery time information for shipping of the product from the alternative supplier to the delivery destination; and

instructions for generating an alternate delivery destination for the original customer order, the alternative destination being a destination of a received order from a second customer, the second order being substantially the same as the first order or the location from which the customer order originated.

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Claim 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Previously presented) The computer program product as described in claim 23 wherein said ship instruction farther comprises instructions for determining a delivery route for the product, the delivery route containing checkpoints for the product.

Claim 26 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 wherein said tracking instruction further comprises: instructions for monitoring the checkpoints to determine the progress of the delivery; instructions for calculating a revised delivery time based on the progress of the delivery; and determining whether the predetermined product delivery time can be achieved based on the revised delivery time.

Claim 27 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 23 wherein said alternative delivery implementation instruction comprises: instructions for contacting an alternative product supplier; instructions for providing said alternative supplier with the client order containing product information, delivery location and delivery time information; and instructions for shipping the product from the alternative supplier to the delivery destination.

Claim 28 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 27 further comprising instructions for determining a delivery location for the initial product order to the customer.

Claim 29 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 28 further comprising instructions for delivering the initial product order to the initial delivery destination.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 28 further comprising instructions for returning the initial product order to the to the initial product supplier.

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (Previously presented) A system for ensuring a delivery of a product to a delivery destination within a predetermined delivery time period, the delivery system utilizing an alternate product supplier and comprising:

a communication interface for establishing communication between a client desiring to ship a product and a business entity that can ship the client's product, said communication interface enabling the client to submit purchase and shipping information to the business entity;

a program that can process any information received by the business entity from the client related to the purchase and shipment of the product;

a program for tracking the shipped order along a delivery route to assess the progress of the shipment to the delivery destination;

a switchover entity capable of implementing an alternative delivery program, when said tracking program indicates that the shipped order will not reach the delivery destination within the predetermined delivery time as specified in the client delivery order;

an alternative delivery component capable of determining a location of a second order that is substantially the same as the shipped order and generating a delivery route to delivery the original order to the determined location of the second order; and

a database component to store all product information related to the purchase, shipment and delivery of a client order.

Claim 34 (Original) The system as described in claim 33 wherein said processing program, tracking program, switchover entity and database component are contained in a server at one location.

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Claim 35 (Original) The system as described in claim 33 wherein the communication between the client and the business entity occurs via said communication interface over a communication network.

Claim 36 (Original) The system as described in claim 33 wherein said switchover entity comprises a decision making component that determines whether to implement the alternative delivery program based on information from the tracking program.

Claim 37 (Previously presented) The system as described in claim 36 wherein said decision making component comprises switchover policies with guidelines that cover the implementation of alternative delivery programs and switchover logic that performs the actual alternative deliver program implementation.

Claim 38 (Original) The system as described in claim 33 wherein said database component comprises supplier and shipping and handling databases.

Claim 39 (Original) The system as descried in claim 38 wherein said supplier and shipping and handling databases are in different physical locations.

Claim 40 (Original) The system as described in claim 33 further comprising multiple servers, each server being in communication with said other servers, said servers being in different locations and containing said processing program, tracking program, switchover entity and database component.

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